

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144035

42

ORIGIN EA-14

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGRCH

SUBJECT: PRC AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

REF: PEKING 1060

1. BEGIN LOU. ARTICLE IN QUESTION, PREPARED BY USDA'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS) ANALYSTS IN MID-MAY, APPEARED IN JUNE 10 EDITION OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURE. FULL TEXT CONTAINED PARAS 2-5 BELOW. ERS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED ITS ANALYSIS BASED ON NEW INFORMATION. WEATHER CONDITIONS IN NORTH CHINA HAVE NOT BEEN AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR AND HAS IN SOME AREAS BEEN QUITE UNFAVORABLE. THEREFORE, ERS DEFINITELY EXPECTS A SMALLER WINTER WHEAT HARVEST (JUNE RAINFALL IN SOME AREAS CAME TOO LATE TO HELP CROP PROSPECTS), AND WOULD AGREE THAT UNEXPECTED ADDITIONAL CANADIAN WHEAT SALE (PEKING 1080) PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS. END LOU

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PAGE 02 STATE 144035

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN QUOTE:

PRC WEATHER GENERALLY FAVORABLE THROUGH MID-MAY

WEATHER, IN GENERAL, HAS BEEN FAVORABLE THROUGH MID-MAY FOR CROP PRODUCTION IN MOST FARMING AREAS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC). PRECIPITATION, ALTHOUGH LESS THAN

NORMAL SINCE LAST FALL OVER MUCH OF CHINA, HAS BEEN SO DISTRIBUTED THAT IT IS BELIEVED THAT CROP GROWTH OVER LARGE AREAS HAS NOT BEEN GREATLY AFFECTED. DROUGHT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN NOTED IN SOME PARTS OF NORTH CHINA--HOPEH PROVINCE IN PARTICULAR--WHICH COULD REDUCE WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS IN THIS IMPORTANT WHEAT-PRODUCING AREA. EXPANDED IRRIGATION FACILITIES AND INCREASED ACREAGE SHOULD HELP TO OFFSET THE EFFECTS OF POOR WEATHER IN SOME AREAS OF NORTH CHINA, BUT WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION MAY FALL BELOW THE GOOD 1973 HARVEST.

DRY WEATHER AND AN EARLY SPRING IN NORTHEASTERN CHINA PERMITTED FARMING OPERATIONS TO COMMENCE EARLIER THAN IN 1973, WHEN FIELD WORK WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF EXCESS MOISTURE, BUT SUBSEQUENT COLD SPELLS DELAYED MANY CROPPING OPERATIONS. PRECIPITATION IN THIS IMPORTANT SOY-BEAN-PRODUCING REGION HAS BEEN ABOVE NORMAL IN HEILUNGKIANG PROVINCE, BUT MAY PRECIPITATION IN KIRIN AND LIAONING PROVINCES HAS BEEN WELL BELOW NORMAL.

COLD SPELLS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH CAUSED SOME RICE SEEDLING LOSSES IN SEEDBEDS IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL CHINA, BUT THESE OCCURRED EARLY ENOUGH SO THAT SUBSEQUENT REPLANTING AND ADJUSTMENTS IN CROPPING PATTERNS WERE POSSIBLE WITH PROBABLY LITTLE OR NO LOSS IN THE TRANSPLANTED AREA.

COTTON SOWING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE CHINESE HAVE REPORTED THAT DROUGHT THREATENED SOME COTTON-GROWING AREAS DURING THE SOWING SEASON, BUT SOWING WAS COMPLETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 144035

IN GOOD TIME. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THE ACREAGE SOWN TO COTTON; BUT IT IS BELIEVED TO APPROXIMATE THE 1973 AREA. END QUOTE. SISCO

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